

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are now pending in the application. Claims 28-45 have been allowed. Minor amendments have been made to independent Claims 1 and 16 to simply overcome the objections to and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Support for these amendments to the claims is found throughout Applicant's specification and claims as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. In particular, support for these amendments can be found in Applicant's specification at Paragraphs 5 - 7 and 33 – 34, for example. Applicant requests entry of these amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

In the office action, the rejections have been finalized for the stated reason that Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in the office action. However, Applicant requests reconsideration of the finality of the rejections, because the previously presented claim amendments had no bearing on the portions of the claims forming the basis for the newly asserted rejections. In this regard, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the finality of the rejections.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify and more distinctly claim the present invention. For example, the rejected limitation "having a corrosion resistance

greater than said metal substrate" has been removed from Claim 1. Claim 16 has been amended to recite an electrically conductive corrosion-resistant titanium-based coating, similar to the limitation found in Claim 28 that is allowable. In this regard, Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to eliminate the recitation of the rejected language. In light of the foregoing amendments, Applicant now believes that the amendments to Claims 1 and 16 overcome the rejections by more particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the invention and requests reconsideration of the claims and allowance thereof.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 28-45. The Examiner states that Claims 1 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and that Claims 2-15 and 17-27 would be allowable if Claims 1 and 16 are allowed. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 16 as indicated above to clarify the presently claimed invention and to address the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. As Applicant believes that independent Claims 1 and 16 are now in condition for allowance, Applicant likewise believes that Claims 2-15 and 17-27 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-45 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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